



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/214,022	12/23/1998	ROLF LASSON	TP1192-US	6097

7590 12/27/2001

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 SOUTH RIVERSIDE PLAZA, 22ND FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

CHEVALIER, ALICIA ANN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1772

18

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

T.D-18

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/214,022

Applicant(s)

LASSON, ROLF

Examiner

Alicia Chevalier

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-17 and 19-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-17 and 27-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 14-17 and 27-30, in Paper No. 17 is acknowledged.

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

2. The 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 14-16, 19-21, 24-25, 27, and 29-30 as anticipated by Skjelby (4,206,867) of record in paper #4, page 5, paragraph #15 and paper #10, page 3, paragraph #7 has been withdrawn.
3. The 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 22, 23, 26, and 28 over Skjelby (4,206,867) of record in paper #4, page 6-7, paragraph #19 has been withdrawn.
4. The 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claim 17 over Skjelby (4,206,867) of record in paper #8, page 3-4, paragraph #9 has been withdrawn.
5. The 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection of record in paper #14, pages 2-3, paragraph #5 has been withdrawn.

NEW REJECTIONS

6. **The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

8. Claims 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In the instant case claims 27-30 have the limitation “non-scored crease lines”. The specification does not disclose that the forming the fold regions by scoring is excluded from types of process to make the fold regions, therefore this limitation is considered new matter.

Any negative limitation or exclusionary proviso must have basis in the original disclosure. See *Ex parte Grasselli*, 231 USPQ 393 (Bd. App. 1983), aff'd mem., 738 F.2d 453 (Fed. Cir. 1984). The mere absence of a positive recitation is not basis for an exclusion. Any claim containing a negative limitation which does not have basis in the original disclosure should be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. MPEP § 2173.05(i)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. Claims 14, 16, 27, 28, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zinn (2,558,918).

Zinn discloses a lined carton comprising a cardboard blank adhesively attached to a liner except at regions adjacent to the crease lines (col. 1, line 41 to col. 2, line 4). The lined carton is provided with a plurality of crease lines (figure 1).

Since the crease lines are not provided with adhesive the bond strength of the crease line region is less than the bond strength for the non-creased regions which are provided with adhesive. This permits the liner to separate from the cardboard blank at the corners when the carton is folded (figure 3).

Zinn fails to disclose that the cardboard blank and liner are coextensive with one another. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the layers coextensive. One of ordinary skill would be motivated to do so because it would make manufacturing the carton faster and insure the entire carton would be liner.

Process limitations are given little or no patentable weight. The method of forming the product is not germane to the issue of patentability of the product itself. Further, when the prior art discloses a product which reasonably appears to be either identical with or only slightly different than a product claim in a product-by-process claim, the burden is on the Applicant to present evidence from which the Examiner could reasonably conclude that the claimed product differs in kind from those of the prior art. *In re Brown*, 459 F.2d 531, 173 USPQ 685 (CCPA 1972); *In re Fessman*, 489 F.2d 742, 180 USPQ 324 (CCPA 1974). This burden is NOT discharged solely because the product was derived from a process not known to the prior art. *In re Fessman*, 489 F.2d 742, 180 USPQ 324 (CCPA 1974).

Furthermore, the determination of patentability for a product-by-process claim is based on the product itself and not on the method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process. *In re Thorpe*, 227 USPQ 946,

Art Unit: 1772

966 (Fed. Cir. 1985) and MPEP §2113. In this case, the limitation non-scored crease line and first and second layers are darkened are methods of production and therefore does not determine the patentability of the product itself.

10. Claims 15 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zinn (2,558,918) in view of Skjelby (4,206,867).

Zinn discloses all the limitations of the instant claimed invention except that the fold regions are treated with an adhesion counter acting agent.

Skjelby discloses a coated paper board container and blank with a plurality of fold and non-fold regions and crease lines where some of the fold regions are treated with an adhesive (figure 10 and col. 7, lines 31-49). The adhesive coating may be made of any suitable material, such as wax based material, and permits easy separation between layers.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the adhesive material of Skjelby to the crease lines of Zinn because it would help the liner more easily separate from the cardboard blank at the corners.

11. Claim 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zinn (2,558,918) in view of Hecking (4,712,737) or Nagata (4,909,432).

Zinn discloses all the limitations of the instant claimed invention except for the liner being made of aluminum or greaseproof paper.

Hecking discloses a carton comprising a paperboard lined aluminum foil (col. 2 line 58 to col. 3, line 15).

Nagata discloses a container comprising a thick paper lined with polyethylene, aluminum or the like (col. 1, lines 15-19).

Art Unit: 1772

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use polyethylene or aluminum liner as suggested by Hacking or Nagata depending on the type material to be contained by the cartoon, i.e. liquid or solid.

ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

12. Applicant's arguments filed in paper #15 regarding the 35 U.S.C. §112, §102, and §103 rejections of record have been carefully considered but are moot due to the new grounds of rejection.


Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Chevalier whose telephone number is (703) 305-1139. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays

If attempts to reach the Examiner are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached by dialing (703) 308-1261. The fax phone number for the organization official non-final papers is (703) 872-9310. The fax number for after final papers is (703) 872-9311.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose phone number is (703) 308-0661.

ac
12/20/01



BLAINE COPENHEAVER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700